



Oh, that explains it



Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements

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DUAL ENROLLMENT, ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

What the Michigan Merit Curriculum Law Says

Sec. 1278b(14) This law does not prohibit a pupil from satisfying or exceeding the credit requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum through advanced studies such as accelerated course placement, advanced placement, dual enrollment in a postsecondary institution, or participation in the International Baccalaureate program or an early college/middle college program.

Questions & Answers

1. **Q: How will these new graduation requirements affect advanced learners?**

A: The new requirements should not affect students who have already chosen a rigorous curriculum. Such a student is likely to already have decided on and included in his/her high school plan the credits in the new requirements.

Students taking an Advanced Placement (AP) class in mathematics, science, English language arts, social studies, or Visual, Performing and Applied Arts also would be satisfying the credit requirements, providing the AP class is in one of the credit areas specified in the requirements (for example, AP Biology).

Michigan schools offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) program also would be providing students the opportunity to meet the new graduation requirements since the IB program covers the credit areas listed in the requirements.

Students who are “dual-enrolled” in community college or university classes in the credit areas specified in the graduation requirements also would be considered as meeting these requirements.

Students who successfully complete a credit-earning online class through the Michigan Virtual High School, another provider of online courses, a community college, or a university (in a required graduation credit area, for example, U. S. History/Geography) would also be considered as having met the particular graduation requirement. In addition, by successfully completing the online course, the student also would be considered to have met the further graduation credit of taking an online course (for credit or not for credit) or learning experience.

2. **Q: Is a student allowed to count a math class taken through dual enrollment at a 2-year or 4-year institution for a mathematics credit required under the Michigan Merit Curriculum?**

A: Yes. If the district determines the class meets the Michigan Merit Curriculum course/credit content expectations for that credit or the district's requirements for a 4th math credit. In addition, all students, regardless of where the credit is offered, should be held to the same level of proficiency (passing standards). This could be accomplished by working with 2-year or 4-year institution to align their content and assessment to the credit content expectations. A district could also establish a policy requiring a student who successfully completed a credit at a 2-year or 4-year institution to take the credit assessment to earn credit.